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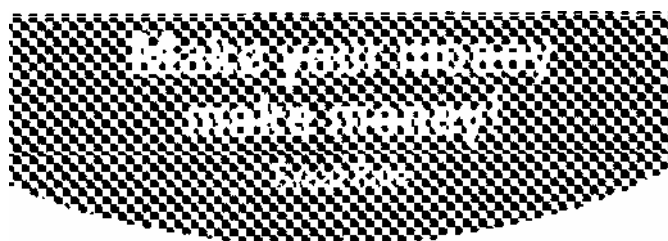
REVERE

Officers sue as settlement efforts fail

By Angelica Medaglia, Globe Staff, 10/26/2003

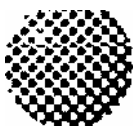
The city plans to hire an attorney to defend itself against a \$30 million sexual harassment lawsuit filed by two female police officers, city officials said.

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Mayor Thomas Ambrosino said the city will hire Ira H. Zaleznik of the Boston firm Lawson & Weitzen. Zaleznik is representing Revere in a related lawsuit.

Carlton Dasent, the attorney for the two women, said the city has "not reacted" to the complaints since they pursued legal action. "The complaints that these people have have been made clear by the attitude of the city," he said of his clients.

The women, Sonia Fernandez and Terri Pechner-James, say they were subjected to derogatory treatment by superiors at the department from 1995 to 2001.

"Plaintiffs experienced a prolonged, severe, pervasive, hostile, and abusive work environment during their almost six years of employment," the lawsuit states. "The conduct of the defendants, all of whom were supervisors, posed formidable barriers to both plaintiffs full participation in the workplaces. These barriers were so formidable, the hostility of the work environment so prolonged, severe and pervasive that both plaintiffs were diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder and were constructively discharged from their employment."

Ambrosino, Chief Terence Reardon, and nine high-ranking police officers are named as

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